

several days of heavy rain which drove the butterflies under cover but the migration continued on almost, but not quite the same scale on 2-6-1947, and in the same direction. The migration was greatly reduced on 3rd June and by the 6th, except for odd specimens, had ceased. Instead, the species was congregating in small numbers, both males and females, on the flowering heads of *Leea* bushes and moving about more or less aimlessly. It is curious that both migrations of this species I have witnessed have been up steep hillsides and against heavy winds.'—EDS.]

28.—OBSERVATIONS ON THE HABITS OF THE
CONCHOSTRACAN *CAENESTHERIA* SP.
RECORDED FROM TAMBARAM (S. INDIA).

The writer records some of his observations on this genus, on whose habits much is not known. He believes that this little piece of information, might prove to be useful to those who are interested in phyllopods.

This bivalved Conchostracan *Caenestheria* sp. recorded from the fresh water lakes of Tambaram, measuring about 2.5 to 4.5 mm. in length, is found in large numbers during the months of September and October, a time when the lakes are not full. The habits of these animals which suddenly go down in numbers after heavy rains, are very interesting. They can be seen burrowing in the muddy soil near the shores of the lake and by the aid of the characteristic elliptical openings on the muddy shores, their position can easily be located. Very often they are to be found swimming in the waters near the shore, with their shells slightly opened, and protruding their leaf-like legs, by the aid of which they propel themselves in the water. But they have a limited range of movement because they are not to be found swimming in places where the water is more than three or four feet deep, and at the slightest provocation they sink down and burrow themselves in the mud.

These animals feed on diatoms and water weeds which grow in large numbers by the shore. The water weeds found in the lake are usually species of *Chara*, *Nitella*, *Limnophyla*, etc. When reared in the laboratory in a trough of fresh water, wherein mud and water weeds from the lake were put, these creatures were found to live for some weeks.

Yet another interesting feature to be noted about these Conchostracans is that they are very active by day and cease to be active sometime after sunset. Rarely do we come across them swimming actively a little while after sunset.

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MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

TAMBARAM,
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